

FOR MAIL SECTION

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**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

DISP. COLLECTION

In the Matter of)	
Implementation of the)	CC Docket No. 96-98
Local Competition Provisions)	
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)	

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME

Adopted: January 6, 2000 Released: January 7, 2000

By the Deputy Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. On November 5, 1999, the Commission released a Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Fourth FNPRM) in the above-captioned proceeding, in which it solicited comment on certain issues regarding the use of unbundled network elements to provide exchange access services.¹ On November 24, 1999, the Commission issued a Supplemental Order addressing the ability of interexchange carriers to convert special access services to combinations of unbundled loops and transport network elements pending resolution of the Fourth FNPRM, which will occur on or before June 30, 2000, and expanding the scope of the Fourth FNPRM to seek comment on the use of such combinations to provide exchange access services.² The current comment and reply comment deadlines for the Fourth FNPRM are January 12, 2000, and February 11, 2000, respectively.

2. On December 29, 1999, the United States Telecom Association (USTA) filed a request seeking a two week extension to file comments and reply comments, or until January 26, 2000 and February 25, 2000.³ USTA states that the requested extension will allow its incumbent local exchange carrier members to gather data necessary to compile a complete factual record on the potential impacts that could arise from allowing carriers to use combinations of unbundled

¹ *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Third Report and Order and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 99-238, paras. 492-96 (rel. Nov. 5, 1999) (*Local Competition Third Report and Order*).

² *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Supplemental Order, FCC 99-370 (rel. Nov. 24, 1999).

³ Request for Extension of Time of the United States Telecom Association, dated December 29, 1999 (USTA Motion).

network elements solely to provide exchange access service.⁴ On January 3, 2000, Sprint filed an opposition to USTA's request for an extension of time.⁵

3. Although the Commission does not routinely grant requests for extension of time,⁶ we will extend the filing dates in this proceeding by one week. The Commission acknowledged in the Fourth FNPRM that resolution of the exchange access issue could have a large financial impact on incumbent local exchange carriers, and we expect interested parties to provide detailed data and analysis addressing the extent of this impact.⁷ Under these circumstances, we believe it is reasonable to provide parties some additional time to compile and analyze pertinent data so that they may identify the extent to which the Commission should consider this issue when it addresses the Fourth FNPRM. We disagree with Sprint that delaying the filing of comments will advantage USTA's members and prejudice the interests of interexchange carriers because the Commission has stated that it will conclude the Fourth FNPRM on or before June 30, 2000, irrespective of the comment filing dates.⁸ In light of this date, and because, as Sprint points out, parties have already had time to undertake data compilation efforts, we will extend the filing dates by one week, not two weeks, as USTA requests.⁹ The deadline for filing initial comments will therefore be January 19, 2000, and the deadline for filing reply comments will be February 18, 2000.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Request for Extension of Time filed by USTA is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in this proceeding ARE EXTENDED to January 19, 2000, and February 18, 2000, respectively.

⁴ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁵ Opposition of Sprint to Request for Extension of Time, dated January 3, 2000 (Sprint Opposition).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

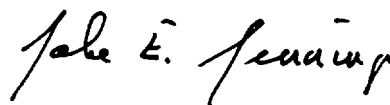
⁷ *Local Competition Third Report and Order* at para. 496.

⁸ Sprint Opposition at 1.

⁹ *Id.* at 1-2.

6. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in section 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 303(r), and sections 0.291 and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.291, 1.46.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jake E. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jake E. Jennings
Deputy Chief, Policy and Program Planning Division
Common Carrier Bureau